

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT  
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 2, 2011  
6:30PM**

**Flag Salute, Silent Prayer**

**SUNSHINE LAW:** This public meeting was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law. Notices of this meeting were sent to the *Record* and the *Ridgewood News* on July 21, 2011. In addition, copies of notices were posted on the bulletin board in Borough Hall, posted on the Borough website and filed in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

**Roll Call:**

Council members Caspare, Freeman, Manna, Stylianou, Zamechansky-present  
Mayor McHale-present  
Councilman Carrick-absent

Motion to Accept Agenda as presented: Councilwoman Zamechansky

Second: Councilman Freeman

All in favor.

Motion to Open to Public: Councilman Freeman

Second: Councilman Stylianou

All in favor.

1. Barbara Correa, 240 Larch Avenue, thanked Chief Venezio for attending tonight's meeting. She commented that Councilman Carrick is not present tonight, even though from her notes of the last meeting he was the one who requested the Police Chief to make a presentation on the twelve hour shift reports. She is disappointed he is not here since he had requested the presentation.

Motion to close: Councilman Caspare

Second: Councilman Freeman

All in favor.

Mayor McHale thanked Chief Venezio for making himself available for this meeting. He stated that although Councilman Carrick is absent tonight the rest of the Council has questions. One of the issues considered recently, police promotion process, is posted on tonight's agenda.

Chief Venezio stated that after the July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, he had asked each council member to send him specific questions they have about his twelve hour shift report. He only heard from Councilman Manna:

Has attendance and on-time performance improved? The Chief responded that prior to this it was not a problem but to the best of his knowledge they are showing up on time and seem to be happy with the new schedule.

In answer to Councilman Manna's second question regarding mandatory training, Chief Venezio responded they are able to conduct the training without paying for overtime, but with comp time in some instances for the in-house instructors of CPR Training, Domestic Violence, Firearms, First Aid, Use of Force, etc. Seat belt campaign and crosswalks can be done only with a full complement of men.

Councilman Manna stated that the question of productivity was one of the key components when the twelve hour shift was being considered.

Chief Venezio stated that it would be difficult to institute new programs because there are several already that have been in place for years-Adopt-A-Cop, DARE, Gun Safety Program, Gang Resistance Program.

The Chief addressed the question someone had posed regarding Detectives and the Captain not issuing summonses. He passed out a list of the Detective Bureau's duties and assignments, which included 55 items. Captain Faulborn acts as the officer in charge of the department in the Chief's absence. His responsibilities include overseeing the Detective Bureau, Firearms Investigations, Workman's Compensation, etc. He is not supposed to be out issuing summonses.

Councilman Caspare inquired as to whether the Chief feels he has enough men or too many men for the safety of Dumont, to which he responded that they are adequately staffed. The Councilman also asked if the twelve hour shift is a cause of fatigue of the police on duty or if it impacts safety. The Chief was concerned initially but has not found that to be the case.

Councilman Stylianou asked what "other summonses" includes. The Chief responded that some examples would be snow on the roof, equipment violations, headlights, etc. The Councilman then asked about the morale of the police officers. Chief Venezio said that the morale is good. The overtime numbers for replacing sick officers are down and productivity is up. Councilman Stylianou asked how detrimental it would be to go back to the eight hour shift. The Chief replied that it would be disastrous. There is no reason to go back. The PBA members are doing what they said they would do. If they feel that something is done unjustly, sick time rises and with that, overtime.

Councilwoman Zamechansky asked what would happen if they lost some police officers. The Chief said that they would lose some programs. He added that in 1975 the police department had six full-time detectives, a full-time juvenile officer and a DARE officer and probably a third of the workload they currently. Today there are three full-time detectives and one DARE officer; the detectives have assumed the juvenile officer's role. Dumont is a very busy, small police department.

Mr. Perkins asked whether the police department would need a captain and three sergeants whether they had eight hour shifts or twelve hours shifts. The answer is yes.  
Review for Public Portion:

## **RESOLUTIONS**

#11-170 Approval of Capital Budget Amendment

#11-171 Kevin Gynegrowski-Rescind Application to Fire Department

#11-172 Paul Mourad-Accept Application as Member of Fire Department Auxiliary

#11-173 Ryan Woska-Accept Application as Member of Fire Department Auxiliary

#11-174 Felix Alex-Accept Resignation as Seasonal Employee

#11-175 Frontier Room-Approval of Live Entertainment Request for September 17, 2011

#11-176 Approval of DHS Music Boosters Off-premise Merchandise Raffle to be drawn  
November 14, 2011; RL#348, ID#109-5-36714

#11-177 Approval of DHS Music Boosters On-premise Cash Raffle to be held 9/16/11, 10/6/11,  
10/28/11 and 11/4/11; RL#349, ID#109-5-36714

#11-178 Approval of Request to Hold Block Party on Lucille Avenue September 17, 2011

#11-179 Authorization for the CFO to Cancel Certain Checks-\$215.00

#11-180 Authorization of Property Reassessment and to Advertise for Request for Proposals

#11-181 Authorization to Enter into Shared Services for the Purpose of Property Reassessment

#11-182 Special Emergency Appropriation-Preparation and Execution of a Borough-Wide Reassessment of Real Property-not to exceed \$250,000

#11-183 Authorization to Bond for 2011 Capital Projects

#11-184 Adoption of the 2011-2015 Community Forestry Management Plan

Mayor McHale explained that he, Councilman Carrick and Councilman Manna met with the Shade Tree Commission last night to go over the language of the Forestry Management Plan. They removed certain language which was too binding for the Borough.

#11-185 Police Department Promotions-Authorization to Conduct Written Examination-not to exceed \$10,000

#11-186 Acknowledgement of Third Quarter Tax Bill Grace Period

Mayor McHale stated that the tax bills were mailed yesterday. The grace period deadline is August 26<sup>th</sup>.

## **ORDINANCES**

### *Second Reading*

#1433 Dedication of the Washington/New Milford/Virginia Avenue Intersection to Honor the Memory of Matthew La Porte

### *First Reading*

#1434 Bond Ordinance-Various 2011 Capital Improvements -\$435,000

#1435 Ordinance Authorizing an Emergency Appropriation-N.J.S 40a:4-53 for the Preparation and Execution of a Borough-wide Reassessment of the Previous Revaluation of Real Property.

Mr. Paster explained that Resolution #182 authorizes the action of reassessment and Ordinance #1435 authorizes funding.

Mayor McHale read the resolution to go into closed session to discuss a DPW personnel issue.

Motion: Councilwoman Zamechansky

Second: Councilman Freeman

Roll call vote: council members Caspare, Freeman, Manna, Stylianou, Zamechansky-yes

Motion to recess to Council Chambers: Councilman Caspare

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

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## **Roll Call:**

Council members Caspare, Freeman, Manna, Stylianou, Zamechansky-present

Mayor McHale-present

Councilman Carrick-absent

Motion to accept agenda as presented: Councilman Stylianou  
Second: Councilman Freeman  
All in favor.

**Review of Consent Agenda Items:** All items with an asterisk are considered to be non-controversial by the Council and will be approved by one motion. There may be further discussion prior to the vote upon request of a member of the public or a Council member. Also, any item may be removed for further discussion or for roll call vote in which case the item will be removed and considered in its normal sequence as part of the general order of business.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

- #11-170 Approval of Capital Budget Amendment \*
- #11-171 Kevin Gynegrowski-Rescind Application to Fire Department \*
- #11-172 Paul Mourad-Accept Application as Member of Fire Department Auxiliary \*
- #11-173 Ryan Woska-Accept Application as Member of Fire Department Auxiliary \*
- #11-174 Felix Alex-Accept Resignation as Seasonal Employee \*
- #11-175 Frontier Room-Approval of Live Entertainment Request for September 17, 2011\*
- #11-176 Approval of DHS Music Boosters Off-premise Merchandise Raffle to be drawn November 14, 2011; RL#348, ID#109-5-36714 \*
- #11-177 Approval of DHS Music Boosters On-premise Cash Raffle to be held 9/16/11, 10/6/11, 10/28/11 and 11/4/11; RL#349, ID#109-5-36714 \*
- #11-178 Approval of Request to Hold Block Party on Lucille Avenue September 17, 2011\*
- #11-179 Authorization for the CFO to Cancel Certain Checks-\$215.00 \*
- #11-180 Authorization of Property Reassessment and to Advertise for Request for Proposals \*
- #11-181 Authorization to Enter into Shared Services for the Purpose of Property Reassessment \*
- #11-182 Special Emergency Appropriation-Preparation and Execution of a Borough-Wide Reassessment of Real Property-not to exceed \$250,000 \*
- #11-183 Authorization to Bond for 2011 Capital Projects \*
- #11-184 Adoption of the 2011-2015 Community Forestry Management Plan \*
- #11-185 Police Department Promotions-Authorization to Conduct Written Examination-not to exceed \$10,000\*
- #11-186 Acknowledgement of Third Quarter Tax Bill Grace Period \*

Motion: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilwoman Zamechansky

Councilman Freeman asked that #182 be explained for the benefit of the public. Mr. Perkins explained that the reassessment is a payout over five years; does not have to be bonded. Reassessment is approximately half the cost of revaluation; the homes are brought to 100% and therefore there would be a lot fewer tax appeals. We are trying to do this as a shared service with other towns and hopefully the cost of doing the reassessment would be lower than expected.

Motion to open to the public on Consent Agenda items: Councilman Stylianou

Second: Councilman Freeman

All in favor.

1. Kai Chen, 90 Teak Road, addressed the Mayor stating that when he asked him about appeals for property earlier this year he had indicated that the assessments were sound and the appeals were more exceptions than the rule. What has happened since? He asked why it is an emergency now. Will the taxes for the average homeowner increase or

decrease after the reassessment? His concern is that the Borough would collect less revenue. He asked about Resolutions #170 and #183, Capital Projects.

2. Timothy Hickey, 165 Randolph Avenue, commended the Mayor and Council for moving forward with the reassessment. He said that if we are going back to the company who did the revaluation in 2004, 2005 we should get a discount. He asked whether the towns we are going into shared services with for reassessment used the same company initially.

Motion to close: Councilwoman Zamechansky

Second: Councilman Freeman

All in favor.

Roll call vote: council members Caspare, Freeman, Manna, Stylianou, Zamechansky-yes

Mayor McHale added for the record that with the adoption of Resolution #186,

Acknowledgement of the Third Quarter Tax Bill Grace Period, the deadline is August 26<sup>th</sup>. After August 26<sup>th</sup> the penalty period will begin.

## **ORDINANCES**

### *Second Reading*

**#1433** Dedication of the Washington/New Milford/Virginia Avenue Intersection to Honor the Memory of Matthew La Porte

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilwoman Zamechansky

Second: Councilman Freeman

All in favor.

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Stylianou

Second: Councilman Freeman

All in favor.

Motion to close: Councilman Stylianou

Second: Councilman Freeman

All in favor.

Motion to adopt on second reading: Councilwoman Zamechansky

Second: Councilman Manna

Roll call vote: council members Caspare, Freeman, Manna, Stylianou, Zamechansky-yes

### *First Reading*

**#1434** Bond ordinance providing for various 2011 capital improvements, by and in the Borough of Dumont, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey; appropriating \$435,000 therefor and authorizing the issuance of \$414,284 bonds or notes of the borough to finance part of the cost thereof

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Freeman

All in favor.

Motion to adopt on first reading Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Freeman

Roll call vote: council members Caspare, Freeman, Manna, Stylianou, Zamechansky-yes

**#1435** Ordinance Authorizing an Emergency Appropriation-N.J.S.40a:4-53 for the Preparation and Execution of a Borough-wide Reassessment of the Previous Revaluation of Real Property.

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilman Stylianou

Second: Councilman Freeman

All in favor

Motion to adopt on first reading: Councilwoman Zamechansky

Second: Councilman Freeman

Roll call vote: council members Caspare, Freeman, Manna, Stylianou, Zamechansky-yes

Motion to open to the public for General Participation: Councilman Stylianou

Second: Councilman Freeman

All in favor.

1. Kai Chen, 90 Teak Road, asked Councilman Manna, finance chair last year, if he read the 2010 Audit report and the irregularities flagged by the auditor. He asked him to comment on the items repeated sometimes two and three years. He asked Councilman Manna to pledge that the deficiencies will be corrected and not repeated in the next audit. He asked how many people work in the Finance office. He asked Mr. Perkins if he would give him his personal assurance that repeated deficiencies will not be repeated next year.

Motion to close: Councilman Freeman

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Freeman

All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Connelly, RMC

Municipal Clerk